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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/346,678	07/02/1999	MASAAKI IWANE	35.C13630	2744

5514 7590 04/23/2003

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EXAMINER

DIAZ, JOSE R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2815

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/346,678

Applicant(s)

IWANE ET AL.

Examiner

José R Diaz

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7,9,10 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7,9,10 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) /
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

➤ A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 3, 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

➤ The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

➤ Claims 7, 8, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- Claim 7 recites the limitation "the surface" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- Claim 8 recites the limitations "the deviation of surface" and "the strict (111) plane" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Furthermore, the limitation "the deviation of surface" is confusing since it is not clear how this "deviation of surface " is related to the previous

"surface" recited in line 2 of claim 7. In addition, it is not clear to the examiner the meaning of the phrase "the strict (111) plane." Clarification is required.

- Claim 10 recites the limitation "the light incident side" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 12 is rejected due to its dependency on claim 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

➤ The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

➤ As far as understood, claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takebe et al. (JP 06069129 A).

Regarding claim 7, Takebe et al. teach a semiconductor device (see Figs. 1-7) comprising a substrate (10) and formed thereon an active layer (III-V compound semiconductor film) having a surface of (111) plane (see *Abstract*, *Constitution* and Figures 3-7); the active layer being used in photoelectric conversion (see *Abstract* and *Constitution*), where an angle formed by any arbitrary two cutting lines not coming into coincidence is represented by θ , and the active layer has a cutting angle of $|\cos\theta| = \frac{1}{2}$ or $(3^{1/2}/2)$ (see *Constitution* and Figs. 3-7).

Regarding claim 9, Takebe et al. teach a "strict" (111) plane (see *Abstract*, *Constitution* and Figures 3-7).

➤ As far as understood, claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyabayashi (US Patent No. 5,159,472).

Regarding claim 10, Miyabayashi teaches a photoelectric element (see Fig. 1) comprising an antireflection layer (9), silicon layers (10, 11, 12), and an electrode (4, 13), provided from the light incident side ($h\nu$) (see Fig. 1), wherein the silicon layers comprise an n+ layer and a p- layer (10, 11, 12) provided from the light incident side ($h\nu$) (see Fig. 1 and col. 6, lines 28-36). With regards to the process limitation of forming the silicon by an epitaxial deposition step, Applicant should note that such limitation contains method of making characteristics given no patentable weight in determining patentability of the final device structure. Note that a "product by process" claim is directed to the product per se, no matter how actually made, In re Brown, 173 USPQ 685; In re Luck, 177 USPQ 523; In re Fessmann, 180 USPQ 324; In re Avery, 186 USPQ 161; In re Wertheim, 191 USPQ 90 (209 USPQ 554 does not deal with this issue); In re Marosi et al, 218 USPQ 289; and particularly In re Thorpe, 227 USPQ 964, all of which make it clear that it is the patentability of the final product per se which must be determined in a "product by process" claim, and not the patentability of the process, and that an old or obvious product produced by a new method is not patentable as a product, whether claimed in "product by process" claims or not. Note that applicant has the burden of proof in such cases, as the above case law makes clear.

Regarding claim 12, Miyabayashi teaches a p+ layer between the p- layer and the electrode, and the electrode is in contact with the n+ layer (see Fig. 1 and col. 6, lines 28-36).

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Response to Arguments

➤ Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7, 9-10 and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

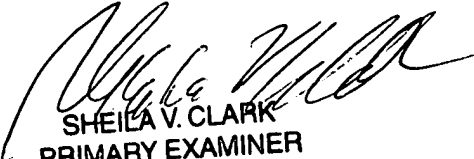
Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to José R Díaz whose telephone number is (703) 308-6078. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Lee can be reached on (703) 308-1690. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 746-3891 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JRD
April 17, 2003


SHEILA V. CLARK
PRIMARY EXAMINER